

Serial No. 10/613,264

Page 6

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 5 thereof, please amend the paragraph as follows:

This application is a non-provisional application filed under 35 U.S.C. [[§111(a)]] §111(a) claiming priority of the provisional application serial number 60/394,729 filed July 10, 2002. Reference is hereby made to Disclosure Document No. 504145. All subject matter set forth in Provisional application serial number 60/394,729 and document disclosure reference 504145 are incorporated by reference into the present application.

Page 4, line 13 thereof, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Vertical support bracket 30 has a pair of sides formed therein, a flange 31 and a side wall 29, each of which has having orifices 34 formed therein for the receipt of pivoting pin 62. Additionally, side wall 29 has a second row of orifices 34 for receipt of locking pin 70. [[A support]] A support 42 [[having]] having a set of openings with a chamfer to assist placement of the locking pin 70 is mounted [[42]], in actual use conditions mounted by welds, although other mounting means could be used, to vertical support bracket side wall 29 such that openings align with orifices 34. Support 42 permits locking pin 70, when in its position of use received by the body of hitch ball coupler 50, to position hitch ball coupler 50 either in a locked position, as shown in Figs. 1 & 7 or in a ready position as shown in Fig. 5. Cotter pins 72 may be used to lock pivoting pin 62 and locking pin 70 in place, as shown in Fig. 1. Under use conditions, both cotter pins 72, locking pin 70 and pivoting pin 62 may be tethered to the device by cable, wire or the like to prevent these items from being lost in the water when adjusting their positions. Hitch ball coupler 50 has a safety lever 52 and trigger lock 54. Hitch ball coupler 50 while shown in standard form, can be adapted such that the hitch ball coupler body 48 is elongated for use with larger boats such as pontoon boats. Handle 56 is attached, in actual use conditions, along the side of hitch ball coupler body 48 although handle 56 could be attached elsewhere on hitch ball coupler 50 such as on the dorsal side thereof without departing from the scope and intent of this invention. Handle 56 is equipped with a grip 58 for ease of use of the boat docking stabilizer 10. Glide bar 44 is provided and screw mounted to shelf 46 formed along the edge

Serial No.: 10/613,264

Page 7

of vertical support bracket 30 opposite that of flange 31. Glide bar 44 is provided as a bumper to cushion the boat being moored to boat docking stabilizer 10. Chamfered locking pin support 42 that is welded to side wall 29 of vertical support bracket 30, chamfered locking pin support 42 provided to support locking pin 70 into position to either lock hitch ball coupler 50 into a ready position or a locked position, the chamfer provided to guide locking pin 70 into position. Chamfered locking pin support 42 is of stainless steel or other resilient material. Chamfered locking pin support 42 is shaped as a bar of material with chamfered openings that align with side wall orifices 34 permit ease of use of locking pin 70 which may be positioned through hitch ball coupler 50 and held in position, either the ready position, as shown in Fig. 4 or the locked position as shown in Fig. 7. A pair of channel brackets [[31]] 21, Fig. 3 are used to firmly hold the boat docking stabilizer 10 in position on dock 22. Vertical support bracket 30 is of zinc plated steel although other resilient materials could be used, and has a crenelated profile. Vertical support bracket 30 is screw mounted to backboard 20 by screws 74 although other fastening means could be used. Bolts 76 are used to mount backboard 20 to dock 22 although again other fastening means could be used. Channel bracket 21 is positioned inside dock 22 to more firmly attach boat docking stabilizer 10 to dock 22. T nuts 78 are shown as liners for apertures 24 formed in backboard 20 although other reinforcing materials could be used.

Page 5, beginning at line 18, please amend the paragraph as follows:

Fig. 4 is a side perspective view with some elements shown in cross-section to aid in understanding of the invention. Backboard 20 is bolt-mounted to dock 22 and vertical support bracket 30 is screw mounted to backboard 20. Backboard 20 is shown mounted mid-backboard to the dock 22 although it is understood that backboard 20 may be easily adjusted to accommodate lower or higher water levels. Vertical [[mounting]] support bracket 30 also is vertically adjustable compounding the adjustability of boat docking stabilizer 10 in regards to water levels. In Fig. 4, hitch ball coupler 50 is shown raised in a ready position pivoted about pivot pin 62 to permit the user to pull the boat in under the hitch ball coupler 50, and, as shown in Fig. 5, manually release locking pin 70 to lower hitch ball coupler 50 pivoted about pivot pin 62 into position fastening onto hitch ball

Serial No. : 10/613,264

Page 8

**100, Fig. 6.** Hitch ball coupler 50 is locked into position in Fig. 7 with safety hitch lever 52 shown in a locked position and locking pin 70 in a locked position.